



## AUGUSTA CANAL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

### Interpretive Center is Ringing Success

The massive bell that once rang out atop the Enterprise Mill calling factory hands to work toned again at the official dedication of the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area Interpretive Center. More than 225 guests attended the April 17 event that featured comments by Augusta Canal Authority and National Park Service leaders as well as Augusta Mayor Bob Young and Congressman Max Burns. The ceremony climaxed with the unveiling of a dedication plaque by former Canal Authority Chairmen Tom Robertson and Richard Fox and the ceremonial ringing of the 42-inch bronze bell.

The \$3 million, 10,000 square-foot Augusta Canal Interpretive Center occupies the spooling building of the former textile plant. The Center tells the story of the Augusta Canal's development and impact on people, economy and social structure of the region. Dozens of interactive exhibits, models, movies and working mill equipment bring the Canal's 158-year history to life.

Executive Director Dayton Sherrouse said in his dedication comments, "I have never worked with a group of people and companies who have brought so much professionalism to a project," referring to the nationally recognized designers, builders and exhibit creators that brought the Interpretive Center into being. (see story page 2).

More than 1,000 people visited the Interpretive Center during April. In addition to the dedication, the facility hosted a community open house April 26. Participants in the 16th Annual Canal Cruise also toured the center on April 27. Comments have been universally positive (see page 3). One that perhaps best sums up the Interpretive Center's purpose, "First class museum! I hope this will spur Augusta to remember its past, celebrate its people and look forward to what the future brings our way—opportunity!"



B.Adams ,  
S. Jones and  
J. Adams ring bell



## INTERPRETIVE CENTER GRAND OPENING

### Talented Teams Turn Dream to Reality

When the Augusta Canal was built, city leaders sought expertise from around the world to guide them. In that spirit, the Augusta Canal Interpretive Center was created by a team of nationally and internationally renowned experts. The men and women from around the country who designed, built and installed the Interpretive Center “show” bring unique skills and enthusiasm to their tasks.

David Whitemyer, production manager with Christopher Chadbourne & Associates, Inc., of Boston, the lead contractor and designer on the project, said he is lucky to be able to do the work he does. New jobs are often reunions with technicians and designers from other companies they’ve worked with on earlier projects.

Key partners with Chadbourne were MAD Systems, of Tustin, Calif., that created much of the computer-driven interactive wizardry, lighting and sound design; Mystic Scenic Studios, Inc., of Dedham, Mass., that fabricated and installed the exhibits; and Monadnock Media, Inc., of Sunderland Mass., producers of the breathtaking 10-minute introductory film and several of the video segments used around the center.

While the Interpretive Center is by no means the largest project undertaken by these exhibition experts, it has become a special one for them.

“I love this building,” said MAD Systems’ Maris

Ensing, gesturing toward the 125-year-old Enterprise Mill. “This is one of the nicest projects I’ve done in a long time. We are careful that we don’t do anything that takes away from the building. We don’t want you to notice our lights or gadgets. It’s about the story, not the equipment.”

#### Locals Lend Their Expertise

The know-how to create the Interpretive Center came not only from national firms, but from experts closer to home.

Former mill workers Butch Adams, Jimmy Adams and Sybil Jones volunteered countless hours to get a vintage Draper X2 loom back in working condition. In their days at the Enterprise, both Butch and Jimmy Adams (no relation) were loom fixers. While that job title is fairly clear, Mrs. Jones’ job, as a smash hand, takes some explaining. A smash hand tends to the warp on the loom (the threads that run from one large spool, through the weaving apparatus and onto a spool on the other side of the loom.) Keeping these thousands of warp threads or “ends” straight and repairing those that break is the job of a smash hand— a job that requires both dexterity and endless patience.

A unique contribution came from Thomas Brothers Hydro, of Covington, Ga. The firm normally manufactures turbines for major power companies. For the Canal they created an impressive demonstration turbine that uses water from the canal to

make hydro-mechanical energy that drives an overhead line shaft, simulating the canal power system of the 19th Century.

Lending their historical expertise were Augusta area historians Ed Cashin, Director of the Center for the Study of Georgia History at Augusta State University, Gordon Blaker of the Augusta Museum of History and Erick Montgomery with Historic Augusta.

Dozens of local citizens contributed their memories and mementoes of mill life or their recollections of the struggle to save the Canal. Many of these are incorporated in the video segments that conclude the

Interpretive Center experience. Long-time residents who listen closely will recognize the voice of veteran broadcaster Jim Davis as the narrator of "The Power of the Canal," the Center's 10-minute orientation film.

And finally, it might be said that two Canal officials "gave their all" to the project. Executive Director Dayton Sherrouse and Canal Authority member Herb Kado posed for the lifecasts that are now the Mill Owner and Petersburg Boat Captain. This less-than-comfortable process involved being coated in various substances and remaining very still. Never-the-less, the results produced some of the most striking figures in the Interpretive Center.

I enjoyed the unique and creative place you have made. It was an excellent history lesson and made me proud to be born here.

Autumn, age 12

My grandma used to work here so I enjoyed seeing the mill. I like how you can interact with the exhibits.

Dana, age 12

It was SO COOL! Awesome stuff! You guys rule!

Mary Ann

The exhibits are wonderful! My grandson loved to see the trolley running through the "city."

A grandparent

It was a wonderful place to spend the afternoon with four granddaughters.

Jack and Nell

Every Augustan should visit. I never dreamed it would be this wonderful.

Barbara

Thank you! Thank you! For Saving History! May we all remember and learn from our roots up!

Marie

Bigger than the Big Dream!

anonymous

Petersburg Boat Captain, a.k.a. Herb Kado.

Confederate products.

Hydropower story.

Working the loom.

Mill Sweeper tells his tale.

The City Electric

The Gift Shop

# VOLUNTEER

## Join the Canal Volunteer Corps

Over the summer the Canal will create a corps of volunteers to assist with school and group tours of the Interpretive Center.

Interested volunteers will also have an opportunity to assist with the Petersburg boat tours later in the summer.

Volunteers will receive special training appropriate to their roles. To learn more about joining the Canal Volunteer Corps, please contact Rebecca Rogers 706-823-0440 ext. 3 [rrogers@augustacanal.com](mailto:rrogers@augustacanal.com) or Kelly Boyd 706-823-7089 [kboyd@augustacanal.com](mailto:kboyd@augustacanal.com).



## AUGUSTA CANAL CRUISE & COOKOUT

More than 300 canoers, cyclists and Canal supporters enjoyed the Augusta Canal Cruise and Cookout April 27. The event, sponsored by Atlanta Gas Light and WAGT-TV 26 celebrated its 16th year.



# PROJECTS UPDATE

**Towpath improvements and repairs:** Plans for the towpath resurfacing project have been altered in response to several concerns. The initial surfacing material, a sand/clay mix, failed to adhere satisfactorily to the path. The alternative solution, a recycled asphalt material, was applied to the westernmost end of the trail in April. While many towpath users expressed enthusiasm for this material, others voiced concerns about its aesthetics and historical appropriateness. The Canal Authority has halted further application of the recycled asphalt and is considering alternatives. In the mean time, low places and ruts will be filled and patched. Other planned improvements, including safety railings and signage are proceeding as planned.

A section of the towpath sustained damage in April when a large tree toppled into the canal following prolonged rains. A 125-foot crack developed along the waterside section of the path, located just west of the Raw Water Pumping Station. W.R. Toole Engineering has evaluated the situation and developed plans to repair the damage.

**New Bartram Trail:** Travelers along Riverwatch Parkway may have noted equipment at work clearing undergrowth and smoothing surfaces to create the New Bartram Trail. This section of the multiuse trail project will allow Canal towpath users access to the

southern side of the Canal.

**Petersburg Boats:** Daily progress on the Petersburg boats continues. The docks at Enterprise Mill and the Headgates are complete. Projected completion for the vessels is now estimated to be July. Boat builder Rusty Fleetwood is creating two replicas of these canal cargo boats that will accommodate up to 45 people for scheduled tours or charters. A community festival is planned to mark the official launch and christening of the craft in late summer.

**Headgates and Locks:** Continued regulatory review by various state and federal entities has slowed progress on bidding for this project. When completed, the locks will once again be operational and the headgates structures refurbished.

**Powderworks Chimney:** A treasured Canal landmark, the Confederate Powderworks Chimney, received a thorough structural inspection in early May by McMullan & Associates, a firm specializing in historical structures. The physical integrity of the chimney, the only remaining structure from the C.S.A.'s vast Powderworks, appears to be sound.

## Plan your visit to The Augusta Canal Interpretive Center

Enterprise Mill  
1450 Greene Street  
Augusta GA 30901  
706-823-7089

### Directions:

I-20 to Exit 200-  
Riverwatch Parkway.  
Left on Riverwatch  
approx. 5 miles to 13th  
Street. Right on 13th  
Street (0.1 mi.) to Greene  
Street. Right on Greene (0.3  
mi.) to Enterprise Mill.  
Entrance on West (far) side of  
Mill. FREE Parking

### Hours:

Monday – Saturday, 10 a.m.  
– 6 p.m.; Sunday 1- 6 p.m.

### Admission:

Adults \$5; Senior (55+) &  
Military \$4; Youth (6-18) \$3;  
Children under 6 free.  
Group discounts available.





Kelly Boyd

### Meet the Interpretive Center Staff

Kelly Boyd joined the staff of the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area in March as Manager of the Interpretive Center and the Gift Shop. She will manage day-to-day visitor services and gift shop operations, aided by part-time staffers Holly Madden and Louise Blaylock.

Boyd previously was Customer Service Manager at Augusta Mall and also served as a trainer and customer service representative for AT&T. She is a graduate of Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood, South Carolina and is active in a number of community organizations including the Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce and Morris Museum of Art.



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BY N. TURNER SIMKINS

As the last echoes of the mighty Enterprise Mill bell began to fade at the close of our Interpretive Center dedication, the words of Henry H. Cumming still rang in my mind. "It is the duty and ought to be the pleasure of every citizen to do something for the public good."

Spoken more than 150 years ago by the "father" of the Augusta Canal, these words are now memorialized on the dedication plaque unveiled that evening. It is a sentiment as meaningful today as it was a century and a half ago. I believe Cumming's words—and his actions—will inspire those who visit both the Augusta Canal Interpretive Center and the Canal itself.

As you will learn when you visit the Center, Henry Cumming's vision, perseverance and personal commitment led to the creation of the Canal we still enjoy today. If not for his efforts, and those of like-minded citizens, our city of Augusta might no longer exist at all. It most certainly would be a very different place than the one we enjoy today.

There are many lessons to be learned at the Canal Interpretive Center: how hydropower is made; how cloth is woven; how working-class Augustans lived in times past. But perhaps the greatest lesson is that personal dedication and commitment to a cause can have profound impacts—that may last generations beyond one's own lifetime. Each of us can make some sort of contribution to "the public good."

Whether it be as a volunteer, a donor, a board member or simply as a supporter, everyone in our community has the opportunity to make a difference. While our individual efforts may seem small, the collective effect of many small acts of "public good" may well have results beyond our imagining.

In this edition of Headgate you will learn about the new Augusta Canal Friends & Keepers membership program and the Canal Volunteer Corps. Should this be where you choose to make your effort for "the public good," we welcome your participation. But regardless of where you opt to invest your time, talent or treasure, I urge you to follow Cumming's example and experience the pleasure of contributing to the "the public good."



N. Turner Simkins

# BECOME AN AUGUSTA CANAL FRIEND OR KEEPER

FRIENDS of the Augusta Canal show their enthusiasm for this special place in many ways. In turn, the Canal thanks its Friends with benefits, discounts and special acknowledgements. Friends receive free admission to the Augusta Canal Interpretive Center, discounts on gift shop merchandise and can participate in special "Friends" events throughout the year. Your annual support enables the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area to further its mission of preserving and protecting the Canal as a unique and special place in our country's history and environment.

## CANAL KEEPERS

Membership in the Canal Keeper allows generosity beyond the Friends level. For many years a lock keeper lodged at the headgates, attending to the Canal's safekeeping. Today's Canal Keepers carry on in that spirit. Just as Augusta Canal is structured in three levels, the Caretakers may donate at three levels of support. (In-kind donations of goods and services will be acknowledged at the appropriate level.)

## SPECIAL GIFT PROGRAMS

**Enterprise Associate:** One-time gifts of \$2,500 to \$9,999 entitle the donor to membership as an Enterprise Associate. named to

acknowledge both the spirit of enterprise that led to the Canal's construction, enlargement and preservation and for the mighty 19th century textile mill that is now home of the Augusta Canal Interpretive Center. Enterprise Associates receive all benefits of the third level Canal Keeper as well as one complimentary rental of the Interpretive Center for a private function.

## The Henry H. Cumming Society:

One-time gifts of \$10,000 or more entitle the donor to membership in the Henry H. Cumming Society. Named in honor of the founder of the Augusta Canal, the Society's motto comes from Henry Cumming himself, "It is the duty and ought to be the pleasure of every citizen to do something for the public good." The Society will recognize its members in unique and customized ways which suit the preferences of the donor.

**Memorials:** Tax-deductible gifts to the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area may also be made in a person's honor or memory. Acknowledgement will be sent to both the donor and the honoree. Contact the Augusta Canal offices at 706-823-0440 for details.

YES. I want to join the Canal Friends and Keepers. Please send a membership application to

Name \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Augusta Canal Foundation, P.O. Box 2367, Augusta, GA 30903

or FAX to 706-823-1045 ■ Questions 706-823-0440



## FRIENDS of the CANAL

**Student/Teacher \$20**

Individual member benefits (see below) for full-time students & teachers

**Individual/Basic \$35**

One member card

- Complimentary Interpretive Center admission for one person
- 10% discount at Gift Shop
- Headgates Newsletter
- Priority reservations for special events (Annual Canal Cruise and similar events as scheduled)

**Dual/Couple \$50**

Two "Friends" member cards

- Basic benefits as listed above for two members of same household

**Family \$75**

Two "Friends" member cards

- Basic member benefits for two adults and free Interpretive Center admission for accompanying members of immediate family. (children/parents/grandparents)

## CANAL KEEPERS

**First Level \$100-\$499**

Two member cards

- Basic member benefits for two adults and accompanying members of immediate family.
- Petersburg Boat tour ticket for each member card holder (when available)
- Copy of "Brightest Arm of the Savannah" –award-winning history book on Augusta Canal by Dr. Ed Cashin (softbound)
- Gift Acknowledgement in Headgates Newsletter

**Second Level \$500-\$999**

Four member cards

- First Level benefits for four as listed above plus
- Gift Certificate for \$50 worth of gift shop merchandise

**Third Level \$1000+**

Four member cards

- Second Level benefits for four as listed above plus
- Additional \$50 gift certificate



# AT THE CANAL INTERPRETIVE CENTER DEDICATION

Thomas Brown,  
National Park Service



Carl Purdy & co. entertain



Augusta Canal  
Authority  
members



Dick Fox with dedication plaque



Dayton  
Sherrouse,  
Executive  
Director

AUTHORITY PROFILE

**Mary K. Martin**, originally from the Northeast, has embraced the Southern culture and rich history of the Augusta area over the past 13 years. She was appointed to the Canal Authority in 2000 and truly enjoys being part of the efforts to promote public awareness of the National Heritage Area of the Augusta Canal. As recent grandparents, she and husband, Henley, look forward to sharing the experience of the new Interpretive Center with the children and their parents.

Mary has over 30 years of experience in training and education and is currently employed by Wackenhut Services Inc.-Savannah River Site as a Curriculum Developer. She also teaches English courses part-time for area colleges.



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